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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 002898

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR PRM/ANE BARTLETT, PRM/A HILL  
CAIRO FOR REFUGEE COORDINATOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREF](#) [OTRA](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA - AMBASSADORS' FUND FOR REFUGEES PROPOSAL

1. Embassy Ankara requests 27,148 New Turkish Lira (approximately \$19,962) from the Ambassadors' Fund for Refugees to furnish, secure and adapt an existing building to provide a woman's women's shelter for refugee and asylum-seeker women in Van, Turkey. The Women's Counseling Center (WCC) and UNHCR in Van are cooperating to provide shelter and services for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The proposal would re-furbish and equip the WCC-run shelter. It does not cover salaries and rents which will be funded by contributions from While the European Community and UNHCR. are funding aspects of the program, including salaries and rents, this proposal would re-furbish and equip the WCC-run shelter itself. Post believes this project would fill a critical gap in refugee assistance in Van.

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Description and Justification  
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2. Women in Turkey can and do face targeted gender violence with no effective protection. This problem can be magnified in far-flung border regions, such as Van, where governmental structures are less developed and societies tend to be more conservative. Van is located in southeastern Turkey and has an official population of roughly one-hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) residents. Unofficial figures estimate that the population may be double that amount due to the high numbers of internally displaced persons, trafficked and smuggled individuals, refugees and asylum-seekers. In Van, there is currently no safe haven or shelter for female and children victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. UNHCR Van operates a small, ill-equipped shelter for asylum-seeker and refugee women and children, but it does not have the mandate or capacity to offer services to both local and refugee women. As such, the Women's Counseling Center (WCC) and UNHCR Van have committed themselves to cooperating to create a shelter shelter for for local and refugee women in Van.

3. The proposal is to create a women's shelter in Van that will be available for local, asylum-seeker and refugee women. If the project is funded, the United States Embassy Ambassador's Fund money will be used as seed money to refurbish and furnish the site, which will provide an invaluable resource to the women in the region. Supporting the project, As cooperation, UNHCR has agreed to cover rental and heating costs of the site for the shelter, until alternative funds can be identified, in return for the integration of asylum-seekers and refugees into the services offered. This is also a means of integrating asylum-seekers and refugees into the society and increasing the awareness of the local community of the human side of refugees and asylum-seekers.

4. The WCC has identified a site for the shelter, the top two (2) floors of the building in which the WCC is housed they are operating the WCC, for such a shelter. The site has five (5) rooms, two (2) bathrooms, space for two (2) kitchens and two (2) salons, and space for a play area for children. The site can be furnished with twelve twelve (12) beds, ensuring space for at least twelve (twelve) local and refugee women at any one time, and possibly more persons, if women are accompanied by their children. The proposal is to locate the shelter above the WCC to ensure access to services and resources, including counseling, referral, training and advice, for the women residing in the shelter. There is also a measure of security provided by being located above the WCC as the police and local security are familiar with the WCC and available to respond promptly should the need arise.

5. If the proposal is funded, the WCC and UNHCR will approach the Municipality of Van to seek assistance from the Municipality of Van with the shelter in accordance with the Law of Municipalities that entered into force on 24 December 2004. The end goal of the shelter is to eventually to hand the shelter over to the Municipality to run in accordance with the Law of Municipalities.

6. The Women's Counseling Center (WCC) began in December

2004 with project funding from the European Community under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights for the Van Women's Association. The aim of the WCC is to help vulnerable women by providing basic legal, medical and social information, counseling and referrals to appropriate institutions or organizations for assistance and protection of their basic human rights. The target beneficiaries are victims of violence, internally displaced persons, asylum-seeker, refugees and trafficked women, as well as professionals and volunteers working with these groups. The WCC is undertaking a number of project activities, including legal and medical counseling, psychological advice and psycho-social support, skills training, training on women's rights and gender issues, and awareness raising in the community. The WCC staff consists of: two (2) psychologists; a Kurdish interpreter; a Farsi interpreter; one (1) social worker; one (1) Doctor; one (1) Lawyer; and three (3) general staff. As part of the European Community project, the WCC is in partnership with the Van Bar Association and the Human Rights Counseling Center and all three (3) organizations have strong ties and referral and information-sharing mechanisms with UNHCR Van.

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Evaluation  
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17. Internal Evaluation will be conducted throughout multiple levels by the WCC itself, by UNHCR and by the Embassy in collaboration with WCC and UNHCR.

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Grant Officer  
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18. Post certifies that it has the authority and the capacity to award grants to the intended recipient.

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Cost  
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189. The U.S. contribution would not be used for start-up costs only. There will be no ongoing commitment. Staff salaries. Salaries will be provided through the European Community program.

1910. The requested U.S. contribution would be used as follows:

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL (YTL)
Central Heating	1	8,350	8,350
Construction*		2,500	2,500
Security Alarm	1	2,000	2,000
Security Bars	10	250	2,500
Refrigerator	2	500	1,000
Stove	2	300	600
Sofa Set	2	500	1,000
Bed	12	100	1,200
Mattress	12	100	1,200
Blanket	20	30	600
Sheet Set	20	50	1,000
Miscellaneous			5,198
Furnishings and Equipment			
(under \$500 each item total)			
		TOTAL YTL	27,148
		TOTAL USD	19,962

\*Construction to include installing central heating, installing alarm, installing security bars, and repairing the interior of the premises,

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Publicity  
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11. To the extent possible, Embassy will arrange for publicity of the grant to highlight the USG's support for refugees in Turkey.

Edelman